

THE GUARDIAN

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CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1953

Welcome Legislators

Once more Charlottetown welcomes the Members of the Legislature assembling from all over the Province for the 3rd session of the 47th General Assembly. It is 180 years since the first Legislature met in this Island and many changes have taken place since then but throughout that time we have been able to find men ready to give up their private pursuits to devote time and effort to the business of the Province. On May 11th, by the way, the Hon. J. Walter Jones will have completed ten years as Premier, a record equalled only by the Hon. W. W. Sullivan since Confederation.

Many matters will come before the House in this Coronation and Federal election year. The report of the select committee on Parkdale's water supply will no doubt be ready in a few days, as will that of the committee on electoral reform. Rural electrification is a perennial problem. The veterinary service has had crises to meet, as has the Department of Education. The setting up of a Provincial museum has long been advocated but there is no indication that any immediate action is in the offing. It will be of interest, however, to learn something of the work being done in preserving the archives of the Province.

A good deal of time will no doubt be allotted to the heavy spending Departments of Health and Welfare and Public Works and Highways. Both have been particularly active in the past year. The latter has the advantage, of course, of being able to point to the concrete result of its spending but in Health and Welfare it may sometimes be a generation before full benefits of some measures can be shown.

One thing certain about the present Session. The Province will not be told, as was Alberta, that the end of Provincial indebtedness is in sight. Despite increasing grants from the Federal Government under the Dominion-Provincial agreements this Province is more likely to be increasing its indebtedness than paying it off.

Peers Out Of Luck

Four hundred Canadians in Westminster Abbey for the Coronation, notes the Ottawa Journal, will be evidence that hundreds of peers and their wives, many of them without personal claim to notable service to the state, have been displaced from a hereditary privilege. As might be expected, some peers have not liked their Coronation privileges being reduced and in a recent debate in the House of Lords some are reported to have been "querulous" and asked assurances that the ballot for seats, by which good luck rather than distinguished ancestry decided a place in the Abbey, had not been faked.

They were told that the Lord Chief Justice of England himself, supervised by the Earl Marshal, drew the lots that secured seats for some peers and exclusion for others. Lord Salisbury, one of the Cecils who have had a hand in guiding affairs since the time of Queen Elizabeth I, told his fellow peers that the ballot was in full harmony with the fundamental principles which underlie the British system of government.

Budworm Battle Continued

Enlarged participation by the Federal Department of Resources in the second annual phase of "Operation Budworm" in the softwood stands of Restigouche County, N. B., is being hailed appreciatively in our sister Province. Last year, when the big aerial spraying operation was inaugurated to combat the destructive infestation of the spruce budworm, the heaviest end of the financial outlay was borne jointly by the New Brunswick Department of Lands and Mines and the major forest industrial concerns in the province, operating under the chartered name of Forest Protection Limited.

At that time the federal authorities made a sizable contribution in providing the special DDT compound used to spray the pest and also assigned entomological experts to assist with the then biggest aerial extermination enterprise ever undertaken to counter a budworm invasion of Canadian forested terrain. Now the Minister of Resources has entered into full co-operative partnership with Forest Protection Limited in meeting the costs of operations. Hon. R. H. Winters has stated that Ottawa will make available \$1,000,000,

spread over a three-year period, to assist in saving the 5,000 square miles of Restigouche softwood areas threatened with devastation by the greatest enemy to this sylvan growth. The three partners will each pay an equal part of the total expenses.

The battle for preservation of the softwoods, says the Moncton Times, might appear to some, in the amount of expenditure necessary, a costly one. Had not action been initiated by the New Brunswick Government to combat the mass visitation of this devastating pest, however, resultant loss in trees laid waste could have run to a colossal sum.

Preparations have been going forward for the second aerial spraying of the infested forest lands. Operations will commence early in June, the most effective period for combatting the destructive pest. And this year more aeroplanes, specially equipped for the purpose, will participate. This year's plan, according to Mr. B. W. Flieger, manager of Forest Protection Limited, calls for the spraying of one million acres.

The threat to the softwoods is still formidable. But the initial attack on the "enemy" last spring has revealed that it is being effectively countered. Mr. Flieger has described the 1952 operations as "most gratifying" in the success attained, with the insects in the area then sprayed having been almost entirely exterminated. That is a good augury for this year's operations, although it has been pointed out the probabilities are that the outbreak will continue in 1953 over a large area.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Abolition of the radio receiving set license fee does not become effective until the beginning of the new fiscal year, which still leaves unlicensed radio set owners open to prosecution.

It is fortunate that the Confederation Chamber chairs have been returned before the opening of the House today. Unlike Members of the United Kingdom Parliament, our Members insist upon each having a place to sit and there might have been objections from any non-sitting members had spare seats not been available.

A party of 25 British air cadets will again visit Canada and the United States this year. They will be the guests of the Air Cadet League of Canada and the U.S. Civil Air Patrol for two weeks in August. This cadet exchange, a goodwill scheme to give aviation-minded youths of different countries an opportunity to learn more about one another, is made possible by the airlifts provided by the Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Air Force.

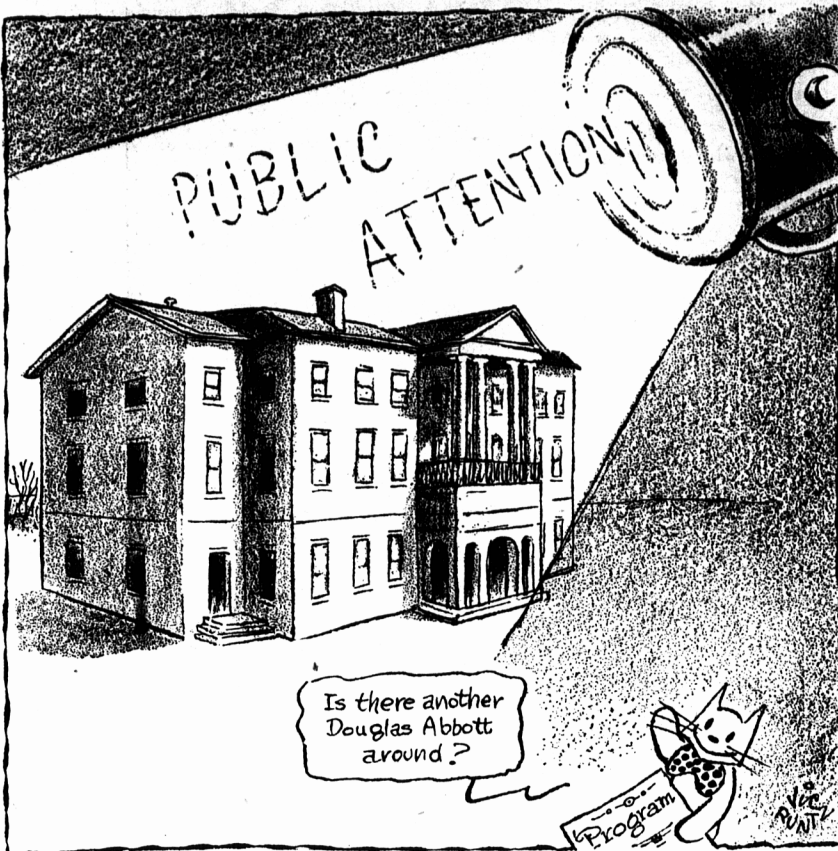
Vincent van Gogh, Dutch painter, was born this date 1853. Successively an art dealer, schoolmaster and missionary, he studied painting and became a leader of the "post-impressionists". He was equally adept in dealing with still life, portraits or landscapes but spent enormous energy in working and would sometimes fall in an epileptic seizure. The work of his final days in an asylum is as great as anything he produced.

After 13 years of rationing, the people of the United Kingdom are being given a sausage that contains about 85 per cent meat instead of soybean meal and bread. It will cook on the griddle instead of swelling up to explode all over the kitchen. So grateful are the people in the U.K. for the return of the meaty sausage that one butcher staged a special preview, complete with a girl appropriately dubbed Miss New Sausage and a new song called the Sausage Samba.

The Canadian Bar Association is concerned with the situation where a lawyer from one Province may have to pay a transfer fee of as much as \$1,500 in order to handle a case in another Province. Prince Edward Island has the lowest transfer fee with the provision, however, that it shall be increased in particular cases to the amount set by the Province from which the applicant is coming. Our Courts are generally willing to grant the right of audience to an outside lawyer associated with a member of our own Bar in a particular case.

First Aid to the injured means proper action by those on the spot until a doctor can be summoned. Widespread knowledge of First Aid is essential if accident victims are to be handled properly and it is the object of the St. John Ambulance Association, the Priory in Canada of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, to make such training available as widely as possible. It is to be hoped that the visit of Chief Commissioner W. J. Bennett leads to a stimulation of interest in the work of the Order.

In The Spotlight Again



PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

HIGHWAY FATALITIES

Sir.—Lately, I note from various sources that more people are expressing concern over the safety of our highways. I feel a general alarm should be sounded to emphasize its seriousness.

Let us look at some facts. Prince Edward Island with 23 deaths in 1951 due to motor vehicles had the highest fatality rate in Canada, 23.4 per 100,000 population. Saskatchewan, another agricultural province, that year had 11.8 and all Canada averaged 19 per 100,000 population. Our 1952 record with the first fatality occurring, I believe, in the month of June was worse, 26 killed. To date the 1953 record portends to be even more ghastly. Further our 1952 rate applied to United States on a per capita basis would result in approximately 40,000 deaths whereas in a recent issue of this paper the 1952 deaths in U. S. by motor vehicle was stated as 37,500.

Are we to read the world in this mad race with death? Shall our highways continue to be the most dangerous in Canada? Are our highway rules being properly enforced? What further action is being planned to remedy this very bad situation?

I feel our citizens must be made fully aware of this great menace. Speed and alcohol are two great killers. Those offending in this respect appear to be legion. It seems reasonable to demand such persistent offenders be banned from further driving. The stopping and cautioning of all drivers committing even minor offences should emphasize the need for all to know and heed the safety rules to a far greater extent than the publishing of them in our daily papers alone would do. I believe the public would gladly accept the inconvenience of more frequent check ups as a measure to improve highway safety.

A further proposal is the patrolling of our paved highways by motor cycle. I believe several provinces patrol in this manner. The cost should be much less and the coverage double or more with present staff.

There must be many effective means to reduce a fatality rate so high as ours. I believe it is up to our citizens to realize how dangerous our highways now are, to unite in insisting on effective measures and to co-operate in the objective of making Prince Edward Island highways the most accident free in Canada.

I am Sir, etc. HIGHWAY USER

March 2, 1953

The Poet's Corner BROWN On any road outside of town, How beautiful the color brown, In seeds of apples, cut in halves, And satin coats of Jersey calves, In Autumn weeds and Summer dust, In fence-rails stained with lichen rust, In weathered wood of barn and shed, And crispy crust of country-bread, On any road, past a city, How often met with, but how pretty The color brown in sun-burned legs, Of little boys and thushes' eggs, In hazelnuts and cat-tails, too, In every old field, plowed anew, In cones of pines and fir and spruce And small-girl's pig tails coming loose. —Elizabeth-Ellen Long

Notes By The Way

Economists keep telling us we can prevent inflation and avoid a depression. But they spoil it all by saying it will require intelligence and hard work.—Hamilton Spectator.

What is it that makes a man risk his life to climb mountains? Is it prestige, the satisfaction of having the strength, the skill and the courage, or the desire for fame itself? It is not money, except that a victorious climber might write a book or go a-lecturing.—London Free Press.

Canadian and American mining circles must be in a fever of speculation over the announcement that a Canadian company will undertake a waterpower survey in the Yukon on a site of enormous potentialities. It may well be that the Yukon within ten years or so will experience development, putting the old Klondike days in the shade.—Edmonton Journal.

We do not pretend to know how Ross Thatcher, CCF MP for Moose Jaw, ever became a member of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, still less how he remains one; but we hold Mr. Thatcher in very high regard. In the past few months, he has given voice to more good sense about the need for genuine economy in government than all the other members of the House of Commons put together.—Calgary Herald.

Just as everybody was going around congratulating themselves on a mild winter, the roof fell in on the satisfaction of Quebecers at least, Canada's climate proved over the week-end that it can produce a first-class winter snowstorm, whether or not it really is growing milder as the years pass. Of course, there are those who will sniff that the week-end blow was

The Age-Old Story

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. . . . And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. . . . And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; and besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer MARCH

And so we have come to the month when "the hounds of Spring are on Winter's traces". There is still plenty of winter potential for the hot weather addicts and the cold weather sanderers to speculate about. Indeed, there are those who will tell you ruefully that this year's winter is yet to come and that the snowfall of January and February that have passed into history were simply playful harbingers of the coldest and latest Spring on record.

It may turn out that way, or it may not. Nothing is more precarious for the layman than anticipating the character of any particular season, and even the experts are wrong as often as they are right. "This is as it should be. It would not do at all for finite man to be able to tell beforehand exactly what to expect in the way of infinite things. There must always be some measure of uncertainty in the things of life, else what would happen to our instinctive yearning for the adventurous and mysterious? It would be a tragic day for the human race if ever the time should come when Nature's plans and expectations could all be put down in little charts and diagrams.

Whatever March may bring in the way of weather, its essential message is that "the shadows and windy places, the lip of leaves and rattle of rain", which it will inevitably bring, are preludes, perhaps long drawn out ones, to a future that will unfold the best and brightest pages in the varied book of Nature.

Winter may linger a while longer but soon it will have lost its power to dominate. It will have to give place to the softness of earth and sun. Already the light is beginning to win and the night to lose in the eternal struggle that has been going on since it was first said: "The evening and the morning were the first day!" The "full streams and ripe grasses" are still in the distance, but they are on the way. March says so, and March knows. It has had much experience in the mysteries of the before and after.

In the long ago when the god of war was adored above all others, March, named for the god himself, was the first month in the year. Quite fittingly, too. Since then it has been removed to third place. A concession, no doubt, to the growing feeling that war is not the mightiest and most compelling force in the life of the world.

We are told that some day in the not distant future the calendar will be renewed from top to bottom. Personally, I hope the renewal will be delayed until such time as war has become obsolete and numbered among the useless relics of man's immaturity. Then March will stand on its own merits and its own grandeur, free of the historical chain that has bound it to a heathen god that delighted in violence and plunder. I do hope, though, that whatever the new calendar may be

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